

## REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 6, 9 and 12 have been amended; claims 1-5 and 15 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 6-14 are pending in this application. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

Applicants appreciatively note that claims 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, the objection to claims 6-8 should be withdrawn.

The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) rejects claims 1-5, 9-12, 14 and 15 as being anticipate by Johnson ("A Semantic Lexocon for Medical language Processing" JAMIA 1999) and further rejects claim 13 as being obvious over Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,470 to Veale.

In order to expedite the prosecution, claims 1-5 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 9-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable base claim 6 and are patentable for at least the same reason as claim 6. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-5 and 9-15 are deemed moot.

Early and favorable indication of allowance of claims 6-14 is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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